

# Invasive Plant Species in Delaware

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This list contains 64 species and varieties of alien vascular plants considered to be invasive in the state of Delaware. These species are, or have extreme potential to be detrimental to natural systems, i.e., displace native vegetation and disrupt ecological processes. This list is based on personal knowledge, consultation with knowledgeable individuals, and the literature.

Species highlighted in bold are considered to be the most damaging to natural areas in the state. These species are usually shade tolerant, many have a perennial habit, many reproduce and spread primarily by seed and/or spread rapidly through vegetative means, many occur in a variety of habitat types, and many are currently widespread and abundant in the state or have high potential to become widespread.

The purpose of this list is not regulatory, it is to serve only as a reference, advising those who have an interest in alien plant species in Delaware.

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	HABIT	HABITAT
<b>Acer platanoides</b>	<b>Norway maple</b>	<b>deciduous tree</b>	<b>Upland forests and slopes</b>
Acer pseudoplatanus	sycamore maple	deciduous tree	Escape from cultivation
Ailanthus altissima	tree-of-Heaven	deciduous tree	Disturbed woods, roadsides, fields
<b>Akebia quinata</b>	<b>five-leaf akebia</b>	<b>woody vine</b>	<b>Cultivated and occasionally escaping</b>
<b>Alliaria petiolata</b>	<b>garlic mustard</b>	<b>biennial herb</b>	<b>Moist woods and floodplains</b>
<b>Ampelopsis brevipedunculata</b>	<b>porcelain-berry</b>	<b>woody vine</b>	<b>Moist woods, slopes and thickets</b>
Arthraxon hispidus	joint-head arthraxon	annual grass	Disturbed areas, edges, old fields, roadsides, ditches
<b>Berberis thunbergii</b>	<b>Japanese barberry</b>	<b>deciduous shrub</b>	<b>Escape from cultivation, woods and thickets</b>
Bidens polylepis	tickseed sunflower	annual herb	Marshes, wet meadows, depressions, ditches
Cabomba caroliniana	Carolina fanwort	aquatic herb	Ponds and quiet waters
Carex kobomugi	sedge	perennial sedge	Planted on coastal dunes
<b>Celastrus orbiculatus</b>	<b>Oriental bittersweet</b>	<b>woody vine</b>	<b>Woods, floodplains, thickets</b>
Cirsium arvense	Canada thistle	perennial herb	Meadows and old fields
<b>Clematis terniflora</b>	<b>Japanese virgin's-bower</b>	<b>herbaceous vine</b>	<b>Stream and river banks, thickets, moist woods</b>
Commelina communis	Asiatic dayflower	annual herb	Disturbed areas, edges, old fields, roadsides, ditches
Conium maculatum	poison-hemlock	biennial herb	Disturbed areas, edges, old fields, roadsides, ditches
Convolvulus arvensis	field bindweed	herbaceous vine	Meadows and old fields
Duchesnea indica	Indian mock-strawberry	perennial herb	Disturbed areas, edges, old fields, roadsides, lawns
Egeria densa	Brazilian water-weed	aquatic herb	Ponds and quiet waters
Eichhornia crassipes	water hyacinth	aquatic herb	Rare in ponds and quiet waters
<b>Elaeagnus umbellata</b>	<b>autumn olive</b>	<b>deciduous shrub</b>	<b>Woods and thickets</b>
<b>Euonymus alatus</b>	<b>winged euonymus</b>	<b>deciduous shrub</b>	<b>Moist woods and slopes</b>
Festuca pratensis	meadow fescue	perennial grass	Disturbed areas, edges, old fields, roadsides, ditches
Galanthus nivalis	snow-drops	perennial herb	Escape from cultivation
<b>Hedera helix</b>	<b>English ivy</b>	<b>woody vine</b>	<b>Thin woods, edges and thickets</b>
Hemerocallis fulva	orange daylily	perennial herb	Floodplains and moist woods
<b>Humulus japonicus</b>	<b>Japanese hop</b>	<b>perennial herb</b>	<b>Disturbed areas, edges, old fields, roadsides, ditches</b>
<b>Humulus lupulus</b>	<b>common hop</b>	<b>perennial herb</b>	<b>Disturbed areas, edges, old fields, roadsides, ditches</b>
<b>Hydrilla verticillata</b>	<b>hydrilla</b>	<b>aquatic herb</b>	<b>Ponds and quiet waters</b>
<b>Iris pseudacorus</b>	<b>yellow iris</b>	<b>perennial herb</b>	<b>Fresh water tidal marshes</b>
Leucojum aestivum	summer snowflake	perennial herb	Escape from cultivation

<b>Ligustrum vulgare</b>	<b>European privet</b>	<b>deciduous shrub</b>	<b>Woods and thickets</b>
<b>Lonicera japonica</b>	<b>Japanese honeysuckle</b>	<b>woody vine</b>	<b>Woodlands throughout the state</b>
<b>Lonicera maackii</b>	<b>amur honeysuckle</b>	<b>deciduous shrub</b>	<b>Woods, thickets, old fields, edges</b>
<b>Lonicera morrowii</b>	<b>Morrow's honeysuckle</b>	<b>deciduous shrub</b>	<b>Woods, thickets, old fields, edges</b>
<b>Lonicera tatarica</b>	<b>Tartarian honeysuckle</b>	<b>deciduous shrub</b>	<b>Woods, thickets, old fields, edges</b>
<b>Ludwigia peploides ssp. glabrescens</b>	<b>floating seedbox</b>	<b>perennial herb</b>	<b>Ponds, slow shallow streams, impoundments, ditches</b>
Lysimachia nummularia	creeping Jennie	perennial herb	Disturbed areas, edges, old fields, roadsides, ditches
<b>Lythrum salicaria</b>	<b>purple loosestrife</b>	<b>perennial herb</b>	<b>Tidal and nontidal marshes, stream banks, wet meadows</b>
<b>Microstegium vimineum</b>	<b>Japanese stilt grass</b>	<b>annual grass</b>	<b>Moist woods and floodplains</b>
<b>Murdannia keisak</b>	<b>marsh dewflower</b>	<b>perennial herb</b>	<b>Marshes, ponds, ditches</b>
Myriophyllum aquaticum	parrot feather	aquatic herb	Ponds and quiet waters
Myriophyllum spicatum	Eurasian water-milfoil	aquatic herb	Ponds and quiet waters
<b>Pachysandra terminalis</b>	<b>pachysandra</b>	<b>perennial herb</b>	<b>Garden escape to woodlands</b>
<b>Phalaris arundinacea</b>	<b>reed canary grass</b>	<b>perennial grass</b>	<b>Fresh and brackish, tidal and nontidal marshes, streams</b>
<b>Phragmites australis</b>	<b>common reed</b>	<b>perennial grass</b>	<b>Widely established in wetlands</b>
<b>Pinus thunbergiana</b>	<b>Japanese black pine</b>	<b>evergreen tree</b>	<b>Coastal dunes</b>
Pistia stratiotes	water lettuce	perennial herb	Rare in ponds and quiet waters
Poa trivialis	rough bluegrass	perennial grass	Disturbed areas, edges, old fields, roadsides, ditches
Polygonum caespitosum	tufted knotweed	annual herb	Disturbed areas, edges, old fields, roadsides, ditches
Polygonum cuspidatum	Japanese knotweed	perennial herb	Roadsides, thickets, thin moist woods, edges
<b>Polygonum perfoliatum</b>	<b>mile-a-minute</b>	<b>annual herb</b>	<b>Thin moist woods, floodplains, swales and marshes</b>
Pseudosasa japonica	bamboo	perennial grass	Edge of woods and roadsides
Pueraria montana	kudzu	herbaceous vine	Roadsides, edges of woods
<b>Ranunculus ficaria</b>	<b>lesser celandine</b>	<b>perennial herb</b>	<b>Floodplains and moist woods</b>
Rhodotypos scandens	jetbead	deciduous shrub	Cultivated and occasionally escaping
<b>Rosa multiflora</b>	<b>multiflora rose</b>	<b>deciduous shrub</b>	<b>Meadows, old fields, thickets, edges</b>
<b>Rubus idaeus ssp. strigosus</b>	<b>red raspberry</b>	<b>deciduous shrub</b>	<b>Old fields, thickets, edges, hedgerows</b>
<b>Rubus phoenicolasius</b>	<b>wineberry</b>	<b>deciduous shrub</b>	<b>Disturbed areas, edges, old fields, roadsides, ditches</b>
Sorghum halepense	Johnson grass	perennial grass	Crop land, meadows, moist swales
Trapa natans	water chestnut	aquatic herb	Rare in ponds and quiet waters
<b>Urtica dioica</b>	<b>stinging nettle</b>	<b>perennial herb</b>	<b>Disturbed areas, edges, old fields, roadsides, ditches</b>
<b>Vinca minor</b>	<b>periwinkle</b>	<b>perennial herb</b>	<b>Thin woods, edges and thickets</b>
Wisteria floribunda	Japanese wisteria	woody vine	Roadside thickets and abandoned gardens, old home sites